

variation of the optical symmetry axis, said polymer matrix comprising polymerized nematic material.

4. (Amended Twice) The compensator of claim 5 [a specified one of claims 5, 6, or 7], wherein said layer of birefringent material comprises a polymer matrix, said polymer matrix including polymerized nematic material and unpolymerized nematic material having respective molecular orientations which, in combination, define said variation of the optical symmetry axis.
8. (Amended) A compensator for a liquid crystal display, said compensator comprising a plurality of layers, each layer in accordance with a specified one of claims 5, 6, and [or] 7.
9. (Amended Twice) A compensator for a liquid crystal display, said compensator comprising a plurality of layers, each layer [in accordance with a specified one of claims 5 or 7] comprising a birefringent material having an optical symmetry axis defined by a tilt angle, measured relative to the plane of the layer, and an azimuthal angle, measured relative to a reference axis in the plane of the layer, wherein said azimuthal angle varies along an axis normal to said layer, and said tilt angle is substantially fixed at an angle between approximately 25 degrees and approximately 65 degrees, along an axis normal to said layer, wherein the optical symmetry axes of adjacent said layers vary azimuthally in a positive sense and a negative sense respectively.
11. (Amended Twice) A compensator for a liquid crystal display, said compensator comprising a plurality of layers, each layer [in accordance with a specified one of claims 6 or 7,] comprising a birefringent material having an optical symmetry axis defined by a tilt angle, measured relative to the plane of the layer, and an azimuthal angle, measured relative to a reference axis in the plane of the layer, wherein said tilt angle varies along an

axis normal to said layer, and said azimuthal angle is substantially fixed along an axis normal to said layer and wherein the tilt angles of adjacent said layers vary in a positive sense and a negative sense respectively.

14. (Amended Twice) The compensator of [a specified one of claims 3, 4,] claim 5 [, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, or 18,] further comprising one or more A-plate layers.
15. (Amended) The compensator of claim 5 [14], further comprising one or more C-plate layers.
23. (Amended Twice) A liquid crystal display for viewing at various angles with respect to a normal axis perpendicular to the display, comprising:
  - (a) (a) a polarizer layer;
  - (b) (b) an analyzer layer;
  - (c) (c) a liquid crystal layer disposed between the polarizer layer and the analyzer layer;
  - (d) (d) a first electrode proximate to a first major surface of the liquid crystal layer;
  - (e) (e) a second electrode proximate to a second major surface of the liquid crystal layer, the first and second electrodes being adapted to apply a voltage across the liquid crystal layer when the electrodes are connected to a source of electrical potential; and
  - (f) (f) a compensator in accordance with a specified one of claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, [or] 15, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, and 38 disposed between the polarizer layer and the analyzer layer.

- 25. (New) The compensator of claim 6, wherein said layer of birefringent material comprises a polymer matrix that defines said variation of the optical symmetry axis, said polymer matrix comprising polymerized nematic material. --
- 26. (New) The compensator of claim 7, wherein said layer of birefringent material comprises a polymer matrix that defines said variation of the optical symmetry axis, said polymer matrix comprising polymerized nematic material. --
- 27. (New) The compensator of claim 6, wherein said layer of birefringent material comprises a polymer matrix, said polymer matrix including polymerized nematic material and unpolymerized nematic material having respective molecular orientations which, in combination, define said variation of the optical symmetry axis. --
- 28. (New) The compensator of claim 7, wherein said layer of birefringent material comprises a polymer matrix, said polymer matrix including polymerized nematic material and unpolymerized nematic material having respective molecular orientations which, in combination, define said variation of the optical symmetry axis. --
- 29. (New) A compensator for a liquid crystal display, said compensator comprising a plurality of layers, each layer comprising a birefringent material having an optical symmetry axis defined by a tilt angle, measured relative to the plane of the layer, and an azimuthal angle, measured relative to a reference axis in the plane of the layer, wherein each of said tilt angle and said azimuthal angle varies along an axis normal to said layer, and wherein the optical symmetry axes of adjacent said layers vary azimuthally in a positive sense and a negative sense respectively. --